

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-36 (withdrawn)

37. (Amended) A coating method for selectively applying a coating to surfaces of [an object]a stent, the method applying the coating based upon optical properties of the surfaces such that the coating is applied to surfaces of [a first type]the stent and is not applied to surfaces of a [second type]balloon portion of a catheter on which the stent is mounted, the [first type of surface]surfaces of the stent being optically distinguishable from the [second type of surface]surfaces of the balloon portion of the catheter, the coating [device]method comprising:

- (a) generating relative movement between the [object]stent and at least one optical scanning device and at least one coating applicator;
- (b) optically scanning at least a portion of the [object]stent by use of said at least one optical scanning device so as to produce output indicative of the different types of surfaces of the [object]stent and balloon portion of the catheter;
- (c) responding to said output by selectively activating said coating applicator, thereby applying the coating substantially only to surfaces of the [first type] stent.

38. (Pending) The coating method of claim 37, wherein said relative movement includes rotating the object about an axis perpendicular to a direction of application of said coating applicator.

39. (Pending) The coating method of claim 37, further comprising simultaneously supporting the object at two different regions along a length of the object.

40. (Pending) The coating method of claim 37, wherein said selective activation includes selectively activating a pressure-pulse actuated drop-ejection system with at least one nozzle.

41. (Pending) The coating method of claim 37, wherein said selective activation includes selectively activating a pressure-pulse actuated drop-ejection system with at least one nozzle that is included in a removable sub-housing, said removable sub-housing further including a fluid delivery system in fluid communication so as to supply coating material to said coating applicator.

42. (Amended) The coating method of claim 37, wherein said applying is [preformed] performed by selectively activating one of a plurality of coating applicators, wherein said at least one coating applicator implemented as said plurality of coating applicators, each of said plurality of coating applicators applying a different coating.

43. (Amended) The coating method of claim 42, wherein said applying is [preformed] performed by selectively activating, in sequence, said plurality of coating

applicators, thereby applying a plurality of layered coats, each one of said plurality of layered coats being of a coating material that is different from adjacent layered coats.

44. (Withdrawn)

45. (Pending) The coating method of claim 37, wherein responding to said output includes said output being indicative only of a surface of the first type thereby applying the coating to substantially the entire surface of the object.

46. (Pending) The coating method of claim 37, further comprising varying a spatial relationship between said coating applicator and the object.

47. (Pending) The coating method of claim 46, wherein said varying is along two axes, a first axis that is parallel to a direction of application of said coating applicator, and a second axis that is perpendicular to said direction of application of said coating applicator.

48. (Pending) The coating method of claim 47, wherein said varying is accomplished by displacing said coating applicator.

49. (Pending) The coating method of claim 48, wherein said varying is accomplished by varying the spatial relationship between said object and a displaceable applicator base upon which said at least one coating applicator and said at least one optical scanning device are deployed.

50. (Pending) The coating method of claim 49, wherein controlling said varying is accomplished by said processing unit.

51. (Pending) The coating method of claim 37, further comprising responding to an indication of said relative motion so as to change operational parameters of the coating device as required.

52. (Amended) The coating method of claim 37, wherein generating relative movement, said optically scanning at least a portion of the object, and said selectively activating said coating are [preformed] performed within a housing.